



STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor

John Ducrest, CPA
Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE—BUSINESS FIRST BANK OPENS IN BATON ROUGE

Effective today, Wednesday, February 1, 2006, "Business First Bank" located at 5212 Corporate Boulevard, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, opened for business. "Business First Bank" successfully raised \$15 million in capital from mostly local residents. Charles Elson "Buddy" Roemer, III, will serve as President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, Paula Jean Laird as Chief Financial Officer, and Dennis Clayton Shill as Chief Lending Officer and Chief Credit Officer of the new commercial bank.

Commissioner John Ducrest stated that this is the first new commercial bank to open in Louisiana this year and expressed confidence that bank management has the desire, expertise, and resources to play an integral role in business development in East Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes in the future.

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